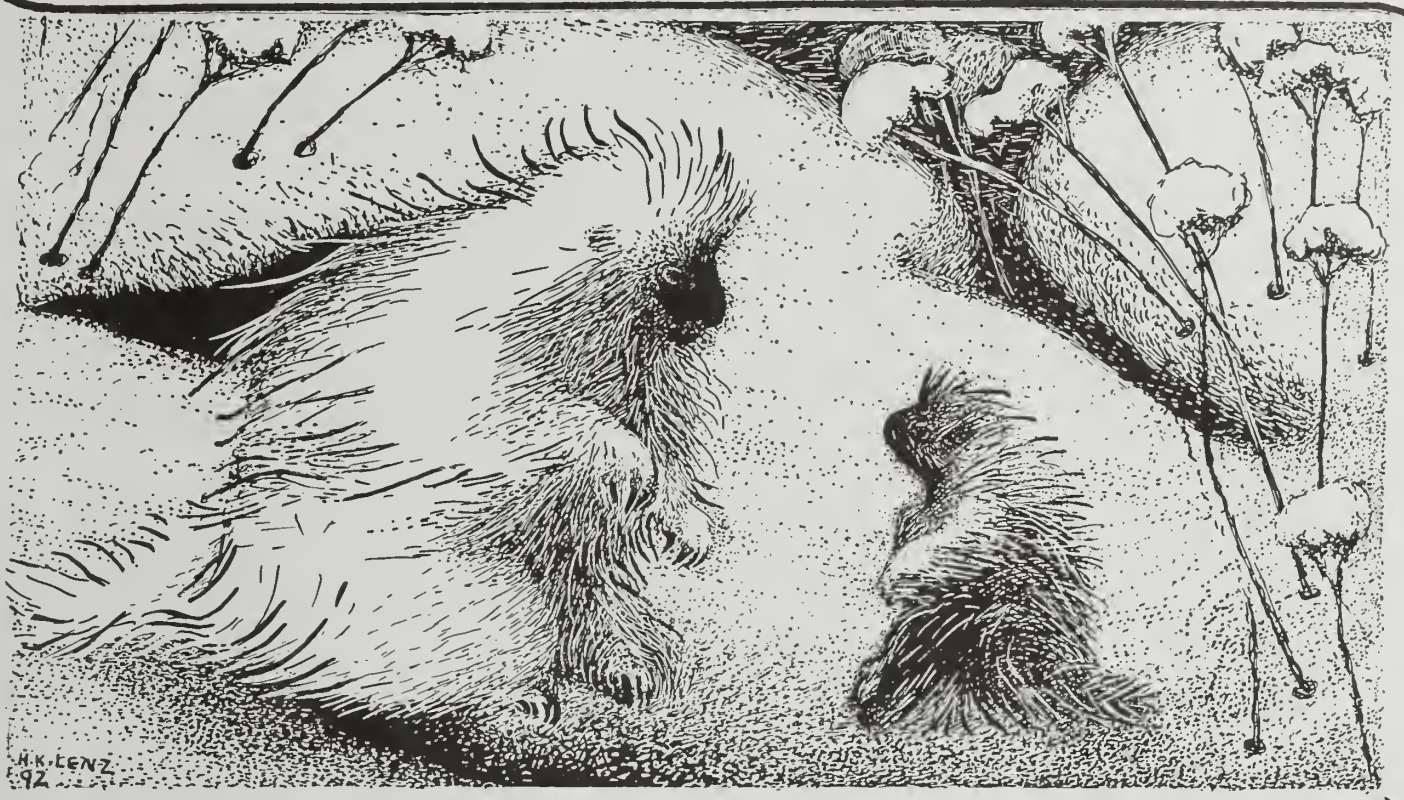
WENDELL POST



Vol. XVI, No.5 December/January 1993

50¢ (cheap)

Wildlife Rabies in Massachusetts

Rabies, which has been spreading since 1977 in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeaster states, has reached us. By the end of 1992 more than two dozen cases have been documented in Massachusetts, mostly in raccoons but also in a skunk and a cat. It can also be carried by dogs, foxes, bats, and domestic livestock.

Rabies is a virus that affect the nervous system of mammals. If left untreated, it is always fatal.

Rabies is spread through a bite or a scratch from an infected animal. You can protect yourself and your family by observing some precautions, and following a few simple rules. These are listed below.

By law, you must have your dog vaccinated against rabies and, as of February 24, 1993 you must also have your cat vaccinated. Failure to do so may result in a fine of not more than $50.

Householders:
Do not approach or handle wild animals.
Do not feed wild animals.
Secure garbage and trash in trash containers with tight fitting lids.
Cap chimneys with screens.
Seal openings in attics, basements, porches, and sheds or barns.

Continued pg 3

Report from the Highway Department

During this past summer and fall more work was done on the east end of New Salem Road; and after resolving a drainage problem with neighbors, this project should be completed this next season. We have received many favorable comments on this work, and it will make travel on this portion of New Salem Road much easier for those who work or have other business at the Swift River School.

We have also resurfaced several miles of our roads this past year. Mormon Hollow Road was completed from the Montague town line to Farley Road and then a thousand feet on Farley Road. Depot Road was done from the Orange town line up the hill as far as New Salem Road. Also a mile of resurfacing was completed on Locks Village Road. If we can seal our roads at this rate for the next few years, we will be far on our way to having the best in this area. Also, there was a bit of black topping done on two roads, the hill to the dump and on Montague Road.

During the "quiet" times between projects we continued the cleaning of ditches. This has not been done for many years. As a result, surface water was running on the

Continued pg 3

Finishing the Highway Garage

This story fills in some gaps in my knowledge of Wendell's new highway garage and fire station. Wendell was left with a partially completed building when the contractor went bankrupt and the architect left. The finance committee has been informally overseeing the completion of the project. The most recent effort corrected ventilation of the ceiling insulation.

The original construction had one long vent along the entire low edge of the roof and one vent along the entire high edge. That allowed wind to blow through, and the wind moved insulation from the sides to the middle of the building, allowing condensation and excess heat loss.

Ted Lewis, Dan Keller, Phil DeLorey, Tim Fortune, and Mark Smallidge recently changed the attic ventilation strategy. They replaced the 150 foot long soffit vent with alternating 2 foot lengths of board and one foot lengths of special finned vent. They installed four whirleybird vents along the ridge. This system should allow ventilation without wind. As of the evening I spoke with Dan Keller, the cellulose insulation still needs to be put back where it belongs.

Josh Heinemann

WENDELL POST

Vol. XVI, No. 5
December, 1992 - January, 1993

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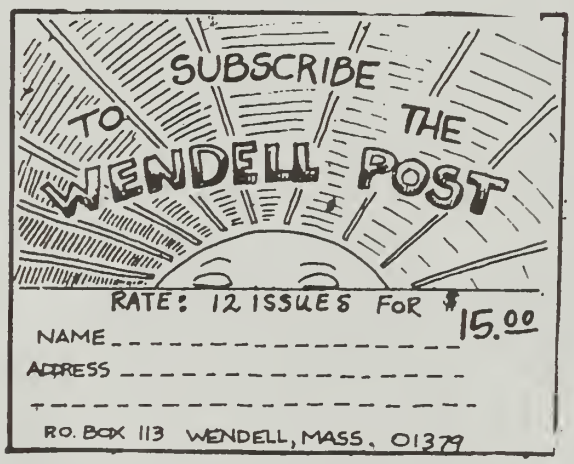
POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.



LETTERS

THE SEARCH FOR PRIDE

Most of you who live in Wendell know that my dog "Pride" has been missing since November 5th. Her sister "Joy" and I are still grieving over the loss of our sweet and mischievous companion. Pride kept us and our friends both amused and well-exercised with her proud antics of schlepping firewood and lengthy sticks through the woods, and her passion for being the fastest dog, and the schmooziest. I still hold the image of Pride and Joy, with their jaws happily fastened to the same stick, racing along. I doubt now whether I will ever see them running together again. Pride's unexplained disappearance from my doorstep remains a mystery. The disappearance of two other dogs in the area is an eerie coincidence. I heard a lot of lost dog stories in my search for Pride—it seems to be a rare case for a lost dog to make it back home.

I'd like to publicly thank all of you who helped me search the woods and go door-to-door, who made phone calls and announcements, and even tuned into the psychic airwaves to locate her. Thanks also to those of you who called her from your own backyards, who kept your eyes and ears open on her behalf, who reported possible sightings. All the leads I got either materialized into other black dogs, or remain baffling possibilities. My deepest thanks to Barbara Liberty, Sara Morningstar, Blake Walton, Mary McBride, Laura Botkin, Ria McRae, Carolyn Collins, Rosie Heidcamp, Kaymarion Raymond, Sharon Gensler, Carlen Adams Rigrod, Shirley White, and Kate Gilday for all your efforts and personal support. Though we may never know what became of Pride, her spirit lives on.

Marcy Marchello

FROM THE RIGHT SIDE

Freedom of Speech, Turkey Pardons and Abortions.

Weather it is how to pronounce Harassment or the President giving a pardon to a turkey or freedom of speech we can not seem to agree on any one of the subjects.

I had a conversation with a person with different philosophys than my own and we could not come to a conclusion on freedom of speech. First things first.

How you pronounce Harassment depends on where you put the emphasis on the syllable, or how ridiculous you want to sound. As for the Presedential pardon for the Turkey, the animal activist say that the other 45 million turkeys should have the same treatment. The turkey farmers say what willwe do with 45 million more turkeys. Who will feed them. PROBLEM SOLVED! TURKEY ABORTION.

During our conversation I tried to explain to him that freedom of speech should apply to everyone, the liberals the conservitives, gays pro choice, pro lifers, peacenics, war mongers and even straights. He agreeded, but only if it were done in a more gentel way.

We spoke at great lengths about my last artical on Brown vs Quail and I was informed that I was insensitive to a certain minority group which I did not mention any names. I want to be a more sensitive and gentle person. What we are talking about here is freedom of speech. Everyone has or should have that same freedom whether they are of the same philosophy as the majority of the Post's readers or they have (what some would call) my narrow minded views. I read him a list of articals that I found to be offensive but I tolerate them because that is freedom of speech. Take my freedom of speech away and I will again become less gentle.

We spoke briefly about Vietnam, the war, the 60's, our guys were called baby killers. They were spit on, disrespected and down right hated by a bunch of, excuse me there I go again being insensitive and less then gentle. These children, babys, were killing our guys with AK-47s and grenades. What is OUR socity doing ? Killing the unborn. The only difference is we are doing it a little neater. Surgically.

I guess I've done it again folks. I have a feeling that I have managed to P_ _ _ off a lot of people.

Ken Carville

PRESS Wendell Post Reporter

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RABIES ... continued

Campers and Hikers:
Do not feed wild animals.
Do not approach or handle wild animals.

Pet Owners:
Pets are the most likely bridge between wildlife species and people. Vaccinate cats and dogs for rabies.
Dogs and cats may come in contact with raccoons and may be bitten or scratched. Keep pets restrained at all times.
Feed pets indoors. Do not leave pet food outside.

What to do if your pet has been bitten:

Try to determine what type of animal bit your pet. Wash your animal's wounds with warm soapy water for at least 10 minutes. Contact your vet immediately.

If the animal that bit your pet was a possible rabies carrier and your pet is up-to-date on its rabies vaccination, your pet will only need to be confined for observation. If it exhibits signs of rabies, it will be put to sleep.

Call the Animal Inspector, Police, or Dog Officer for assistance. Notify your local Board of Health.

What to do if your pet has bitten someone:

Notify your local Animal Inspector and Board of Health.

Confine it for 10 days for observation to make sure it is not ill with rabies.

What to do if a person has been bitten or scratched by an animal:

Immediately wash the wound in warm soapy water, gently scrubbing the injured area for at least 10 minutes.

Get a description of the animal that bit the person. Learn to identify common local animals.

After the wound has been washed thoroughly, call your doctor or hospital emergency room. Report the bite to the local Animal Inspector and Board of Health.

If the animal is still in the area, call the local Police or Dog Officer for assistance in catching it.

REMEMBER: THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT RABIES IS TO HAVE YOUR PET VACCINATED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Wendell Board of Health
Janie Stone 544-3594
David Walsh 544-7409
Bob Leet 544-6122
Sharon Gensler 544-6347

Wendell Police
Ed Chase 544-3554

Animal Inspector
Janet Mankowsky 544-7751

Dog Officer
Maggie Houghton 544-7773

Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health
617-522-5700, ext. 420

HIGHWAY REPORT... continued

traveled portion of the highways which not only tended to wash off gravel surfaces but made for dangerous ice and snow conditions in the colder weather. The progress with this work is slow, but eventually it will be finished.

We wish to remind our Wendell citizens that this work has been accomplished by a crew consisting of only a superintendent and two regular help. Part time help is hired as needed, at the most only three or four during the busy season. We are willing to match our record of work done for the money expended with any other branch of town government.

Raymond Avery
Road Commission

REPORT OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Wendell Town Hall. Oct 17 - voters decided by a narrow margin to "passover" (Postpone Indefinitely) a motion dealing with renaming certain roads in Town. Many road names were under review to end various disagreements, such as use of multiple names or spellings. Renaming was proposed as a way to assist emergency services dispatch in preparation for establishment of a 911 system. The Naming and Numbering Committee has spent the summer examining problem roads, and making name recommendations. In a surprise action, Deputy Fire Chief Harry Williston made a motion to pass over this article, explaining that he had not experienced problems dispatching out-of-town emergency vehicles to the right roads. He argued for numbering, not renaming. Sentiments to keep the old names burst out once this opportunity was provided. The first vote to pass over this motion was a tie of 10-10. It took a second vote for the ayes to carry the decision 11-9. Previous action under the same article to rename Locke (aka Lock/Locks/Lockes) Hill # 1 was thererby killed.

In the final action of the meeting, the Naming and Numbering Committee was given the go ahead for residence numbering. Many voters seemed to feel that numbering alone would solve much address unclarity and would be a way of sorting out a much smaller set of roads needing further attention down the line. So it was that voters maintained the street names of yore, whatever they believe these names to be.

by Moderator, Kathy Becker

Photo by Don Pugh

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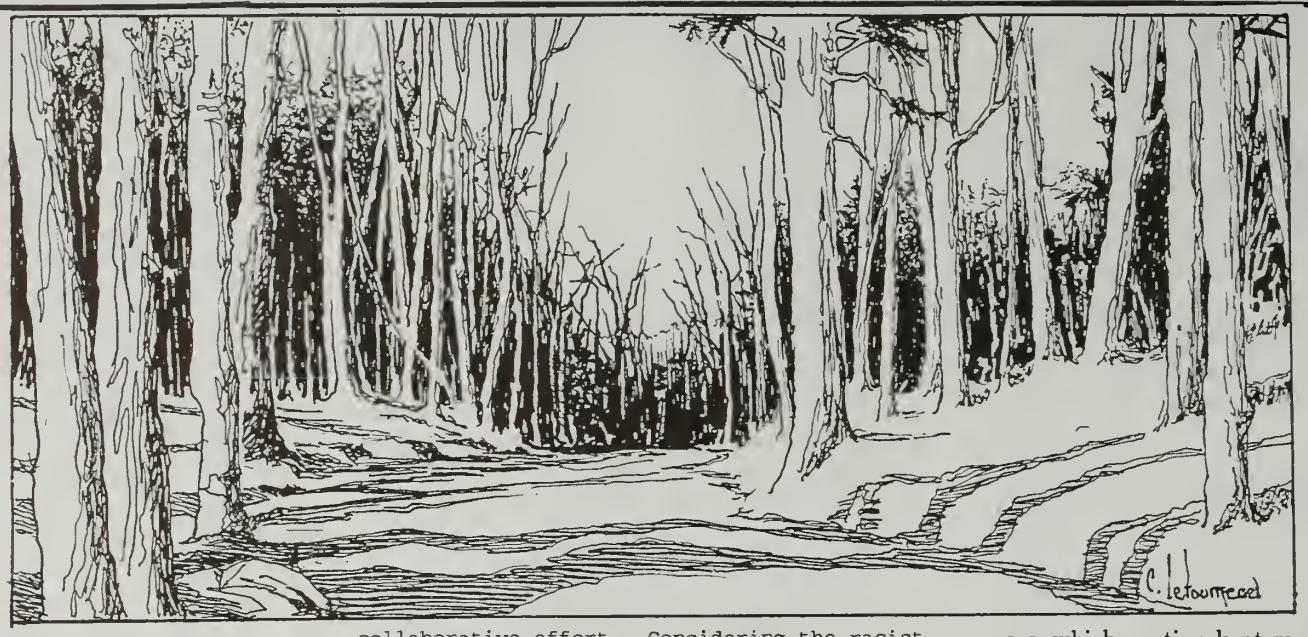


D. George Sherman - In Memory

When you are lost, floundering in private disharmony, there is usually an end in sight, like being down but not yet broken. When you are lost, you still have the company of yourself. Perhaps the dog comes to nudge at the clouds, a family reunites, a symbolic dessert is served.

But confusion is different, far different from death. When you lose someone to death, the word lose is not the opposite of find as if that person might appear around the bend for cups of compote or a tool. I've experienced death before. One does not become a veteran.

George had been a Wendell resident since 1969 when, as one of the original communards, he settled here to farm and inadvertently help unite a romantic clan of college cohorts. During the early years, neighbors gossiped, visited and even collaborated with the communal new-comers as they chopped through brush, mastered tractors and brought the acreage back to fruition. Of course the difference in life styles made what was once called "Jimmy's Pop Corn" (a name for a joint bank account and collective joke) stand out and vibrate with feverish intensity of the 60's. Farming energy, politics and compatriot love gradually bound disparate individuals into a clan.

The commune evolved as all families do. People moved on and away. The history is book worthy and chapter long. I arrived in '78 from a sister farm in Montague to family and farm with Daniel, another of the originals. George returned from graduate school at Cornell and field research in Indonesia to have a family here and complete his doctoral thesis in anthropology. His daughter Ruth was born in the old farm house Life became more beautiful.

George was observant about details of land, water, planting and harvest. With a tool carried from Indonesia, (chun-kol, we called a chung) he developed drainage courses and aided in the drying out of essential areas. This was training pragmatically translated into non-electric American farm life. He was always studying, reading and writing about his most fervent attractions: beloved Sumatra and the Batak people there, a far distant family, and Nazism and the Holocaust. Having been a child of survivors, he felt compelled to analyze and compile vital fact so as to assure "Never Again". His work in progress about Nazi mentality, was the open book on his desk top. Dedicated friends will try to get his three completed chapters and the organized proposal for a book, published or incorporated into another collaborative effort. Considering the racist climate world- wide his research remains invaluable.

George was a vital, energetic, loving and active father, farmer and teacher. No few paragraphs could do him justice as the lonely weeks since his untimely death offer imagery rich in his music, harvest, health, and being in it together. And of course Ruth, our other relative is also gone, moved to the Mid-west to live with her mother and new family, our friends whom we love and trust. She will miss her precious friends from Swift River and the farm she worked with unusually youthful dedication and depended on for security .

The car crash that stole his life, Mon. night, Nov. 16, was symptomatic of a speedy society we share and even reject. He was on his way to teach an evening course at Keene State. The collection of articles and books in his briefcase were indicative of his immense intellect and eclectic style but also of how he enriched our lives.

We can not stand the fact that he is gone. Our farm grieves the loss of his hands. Nature can not always fill a vacuum.

Our family would like to thank the town of Wendell for the use of the town hall for a memorial service, for the sensitive way the town police chose to inform us of the disaster in person and not by phone, and for all the kind words and notes we have received.

Most of the bounty from his organic harvest, dozens of cans of tomato juice and sauce, potatoes, squash... has been passed on to the Wendell "Good Neighbors", a self-help organization for families in need. This is as George would have liked it.

Nina Keller

APPRECIATING GEORGE

George lived among us, and with us, but we did not know him, many of us, till after he'd gone. That's the crux of my pain, the leftover ache after the shock has waned. We had things in common, and should have been friends. We'd both seen our country from overseas, through foreign eyes, thus stripping certain scales forever from our vision of what the U.S. is about. We worked often on the Wendell Post, not quite together yet not apart either. His unerring proof reading, and the small arguments that sometimes followed, showed a push for excellence that those near him knew well. Betimes we met infrequently, passing each other with a wave as we went around this town—with no history of slavery, so full of good ideas and splendid people.

Recently we had talked about firewood, some cords for me, but hadn't come to a deal nor worked out the why-nots. But there was a certain heavy oak behind my house dead on the stump of unknown causes, which caution kept me from tackling, with my own puny suburbanite saw (ten years old and showing its age), and George agreed at once to deal with it, to take it down and buck it up, and for me to do the rest. It was a warm afternoon when he arrived, without notice, to do the job; perhaps otherwise he might have been "hanging out" at Ruggles Pond, playing in the water with his young people, or sitting immobilized by a book, as I often saw him.

We went to the site, me admiring his beautiful serious chainsaw. We walked around the tree, looked at its lean, judging it. Without much talk he "suited up" in the serious safety gear, transforming himself into a green and orange machine (all this trouble for just one tree? I thought). He started the saw, focussing down, deliberate, intent as a wolf on his task. The oak went down with a WHUMP! Exactly where it ought to have, without damaging the soft green pines coming in to replace the gypsy moth devastation of the last decade.

Without pause he turned to limbing the oak. I moved in and began pulling aside the brush as he produced it. Facing away, he wasn't aware of my too-near presence. Then, realizing, he waved me away. I moved back, but continued pulling brush "helping." He stopped the saw, put it down, took off his ear muffs, looked at me and said, not harshly,

> "You asked me to do this job. I'm doing it. You have a picture to finish. Why don't you go back to the house and paint, and I'll do this job. It's okay."

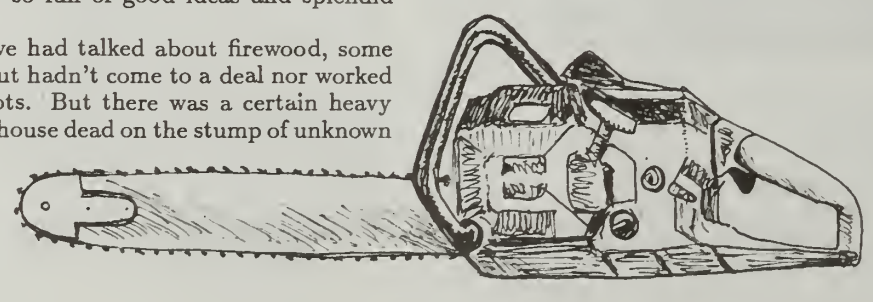
Chastened, I left then, smarting a little, yet finally understanding his anxiety at being thus restricted in plying the long, merciless saw-bar.

Thus we come to the leave-taking, with all the unanswered questions. Who *was* this passionate guy with the serene, graceful daughter, this Ph.D. farmer whose vegetables we ate, this world-travelled woodcutter who, religious or not, knew that eating is a sacrament... and whose harmonica I never heard?

Gone now, this strong Jew who poured rigorous intellectual energy into driving Nazism into a corner to get at the core of its loathsomeness. Gone now, this democratic communitarian with his detached generosity, the kind that doesn't need immediate validation, knowing that the exchange is what matters, that it be made *some*how, *some* way, *some* time, with a broader view, for Life battens and grows only on exchange, and community is exactly that flow, that back-and-forth endless exchange.

It was a pleasure knowing you, George—how good it would have been to thresh each other out fully for the best grain in us...

Bob Ellis



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Selectboard Minutes

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 20, 1992 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/members present: Margo Culley, Ted Lewis (Anne Zak absent because of family illness)

Painting Town-owned Buildings - Tom Chassen attended meeting to apply for the job as an overseer for volunteer laborers. The Board members suggested he apply again in the spring since the present weather makes painting prohibitive.

Alyson Wight requested input on the construction of her driveway - It was decided she will not require a turn-around. Dan Bacigalupo will contact her.

Town Clerk Inquiry from Registry of Vital Records - Annie Hardjens will take care of this.

Franklin County Technical School Budget Representative needed to replace Al Diemond will be chosen by the Finance Committee.

Cemetery Lay-out - Dan Bacigalupo will schedule a meeting with the Cemetery Commissioners.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 27, 1992 - Minutes
Selectboard met briefly at 9:30 at the close of the Special Town Meeting. Members present: Margo Culley, Ted Lewis

Board reaffirmed Sarah DeRoode's appointment as Assistant Director of Civil Defense.

Board authorized payment of $900.00 to the Town of Westport for legal fees re: In Lieu of Taxes from the State of Massachusetts.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 3, 1992 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/Members present: Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis

CAMA will demonstrate computer programs at the Town Offices on Thurs. Nov. 5, 1992. Judy Wilder,Town Treasurer and Tax Collector, Janice Barrett, Town Accountant, Jessie Wetherby, Tax Assessor, and Margo Culley, Selectwoman, will attend this demonstration.

Lake Grove School requested the use of the Town Hall for two private dinner parties; one to be held in November and another in December. Selectboard members signed the rental agreement.

Board members accepted a check for $100.00 from the Wendell Golden Age Club. This donation is to help defray the cost of heating fuel for the Senior Center.

Anne Zak will contact the Franklin County Housing Assoc. the grant for the Senior Center rehab. work.

Anne Zak plans to attend the meeting in the Town of Peru re: In Lieu of Taxes suite against the State of Massachusetts in November.

Board members signed the Class III Liquor license application for the Country Store.

Board members signed the Memo of Understanding and letter of confirmation to Regina Curtis regarding her appointment as the Shared Administrative Assistant for the Towns of Wendell and New Salem. Mark Lewis, Chairman of the New Salem Selectboard, attended the meeting to sign these documents.

Don Stone attended the meeting to issue a formal complaint regarding the trucks speeding to and from the Demolition Depot, particularly during the period of time when school buses are using the roads. Board members will look into this problem.

Dan Keller, Ted Lewis and Steve Broll will be up on top of the new Fire Station/Town Garage fixing the soffets and whirlybirds in order to control the lose of heat at that building.

Swift River School Construction Reimbursement - Wendell Finance Committee will check with the New Salem Treasurer regarding the method of repayment used by them.

Donald Richardson,the newest member of the Fin. Com., was appointed Wendell's Representative for the Franklin County Technical School.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 10, 1992 Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00 pm/members present: Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis

Board approved a Town Hall rental application for April 18, 1993 from MIchael Magrath and M. L. McGuigan.

Eric Brinkechoff and Monica Baker attended the meeting at the request of the Selectboard to discuss their horses which had gotten loose and were wandering in town. Mark Stewart also attended the meeting to support Mr. Brinkechoff's and Ms. Baker's statement that the horses are now tethered and sheltered and watered properly.

Board members reviewed a request from Mr. Graton for landlord compliance in his application for fuel assistance. They questioned the propriety of such an action on their part since the property in question is not to be used as a residence. They will question the legality of this action with the Franklin Community Action Corporation and then contact Mr. Graton with their findings.

Anne Zak reported on the latest information on payment from the State in Lieu of Taxes. Many larger towns are now interested in the lawsuit including Boston and Amherst. The Westport Selectboard, the initiator of the action, told Anne they are not yet ready to accept funds. Judith Wilder,Town Treasurer, will void the $900.00 check and hold it in escrow until the bill is due.

Anne Zak also reported on her conversation with Donna Cody, Administrator of HUD funds re: Wendell's Senior Center's rehabilitation. An estimate of the cost of the original design is needed; and a package including suggested changes will be submitted for bids. Ms. Zak volunteered to be part of a committee to take care of these needs.

Ted Lewis volunteered to attend the meeting re: certification regulations for the Cooperative Building Inspector Program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Nov. 17, 1992 Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/Members present Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis

The Board approved the retroactive pay raise for Kathleen Ramsey in the amount of $136.50.

The Board received the signed contract from Regina Curtis, Wendell's new Shared Administrative Assistant.

The appointment for Donald Richardson as the Franklin County Technical School Representative was signed by the Board.

The Board will contact Carmen Buell and Senator Wetmore re: "Home Improvement Act".

The Board approved the short term borrowing of $250,000. ($100,000.new) by Judith Wilder, Town Treasurer.

The new tax rate for the Town of Wendell is $17.95.

On Dec. 1, 1992 at 2:00pm a representative of Patriot Computers will put on a demonstration for the Selectboard members, Town Tax Collector, and the Town Assessors.

Jacques Graton withdrew his application for fuel assistance at the old Fire Station. His primary residence is on Montague Road.

The Board wrote a letter of thanks to the Wendell Golden Age Club for their donation of $100.00 for fuel for the Senior Center.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 24, 1992 Minutes.
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/Selectboard members present Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Ted Lewis

Anne Zak contacted Susan Durkee,the Real Estate Agent for
the Harlan Gilbert property which is presently inhabited by Monica Baker and Eric Brinkechoff. Ms. Durkee informed Ms. Zak that she is presently seeking, at Mr. Gilbert's request, a person from Wendell to represent his interests while he is in Europe.

The Finance Committee met with the Selectboard to discuss:

..A potential deficit in the Veterans' Benefits Budget

..The possibility of a 3% or 5% increase for all town employees elected and appointed.

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Selectboard minutes continued...

..Anne Zak informed Fin Com that Boston plans to join small towns in their lawsuit against the State for in-lieu-of taxes monies.

Ted Lewis reported on the meeting he attended of the Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector Program.

Board members decided to write to Everett Ricketts,Wendell Fire Chief, to request a meeting with him to discuss a budget projection for the Fire Department.

The Board will request an inventory of all Town equipment, including specifics as to age and condition, from each Town department. This request was made at an earlier date but only the Road Commission complied.

The Selectboard and Judith Wilder, Town Treasurer, discussed alternative conflict resolutions such as: Professional Services, Legal Services, or a Mediation Board.

Senior Center Rehabilitation - Anne Zak and Raymond Avery will work together to put out requests for bids.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 1, 1992 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00 pm/Members present: Ted Lewis, Margo Culley, Anne Zak

Attorney Michael Pill attended the meeting as a representative for Janet Burstein, Wendell property owner, re: the sale of her property to the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Inc. This property will eventually be repurchased by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Selectboard members received an invitation to a meeting to honor Matthew Chase who has earned the title of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. It will take place on December 6, 1992.

Anne Zak will meet with Bud Davis to go over the Specifications for the remodeling of the Senior Center on Wednesday, December 2, 1992.

Judith Wilder gave a report on the computer demonstration given by Stephen Brown on Tues. Dec. 1, 1992. Mr. Brown represents Patriot Properties, Inc.

The Selectboard received a letter from Paul Rich re: his lawsuit against the Town of Wendell. Ted Lewis will consult with Mr. Gates, Town Counsel, about this matter.

Notices were sent to all abutters of the proposed pole placements on Kentfield Rd.

Ted Lewis contacted Ed Boland with a request that he fix the printer head on the town computer. Mr. Boland promised to be here on Saturday, December 5, 1992.

The Selectboard wrote a letter to Wendell Fire Chief, Everett Ricketts, requesting that he meet with them to discuss matters concerning the Fire Department.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

Board of Health

Alternative Greywater Options

Low income Wendell residents who want or need an alternative greywater system have a window of opportunity to have one both officially accepted and financially covered.

Greywater is all household wastewater except what is flushed down a water toilet. If you have an existing septic system that gets overloaded with your amount of greywater, you could add on a greywater system. If you have a composting toilet, you still need a sanitary greywater system.

Of the 30 units in next year's rehab grant allocated for Wendell, 4 are set aside for possible installation of alternative greywater systems. To qualify, owners must be eligible and apply for a rehab loan with the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, 413-863-9781.

Owners must also apply to the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) for an experimental permit for each individual system and have it accepted. The current State sanitation code only allows a septic tank with a subsurface leaching area for any household wastewater. While that code is being revised, an interim policy for experimental systems is in effect. Preliminary inquiries have been made about 3 types of systems: greenhouse, woodchip trench, and marsh. Contact Dorthee at 544-8961 for details about this process.

This opportunity would not have come about without the cooperative efforts of a number of individuals and groups in Wendell. They include members of the Selectboard and Board of Health, Kathleen Ramsey (then administrative assistant), the Board of Health Compost Toilet Study Group, and other supportive residents. Crucial was the FCRMA's openness to include this option in the grant.

Economic and ecological pressures on the State to change the management of waste has undoubtedly contributed to DEP being open to alternative greywater systems. Four years ago, when the Compost Toilet Study Group was first meeting, inquiry to DEP brought a response that no alternative greywater system would even be considered.

It looks as though this is a good time to avail ourselves of the openness in DEP to experimental systems and the cooperation of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority.

Wendell Board of Health

POLICE LOG

10/20/92 – Locks Village Rd. resident complained of annoying phone call.

10/20/92 – One car accident on New Salem Rd. No injuries.

10/23/92 – Deer hit by motor vehicle in center of town.

11/11/92 – Breaking and Entering at residence on Jennison Rd.

11/12//92 – Report of horses running loose on Depot Rd.

11/17/92 – One car accident on Farley Rd. No injuries.

11/17/92 – One car accident on New Salem Rd. No injuries.

11/22/92 – One car accident on Locks Village Rd.

11/24/92 – Unwanted hunter on property on Kempfield Rd.

12/5/92 – One car accident on Jennison Rd. No injuries

12/5/92 – Bullard Pasture Rd. resident reported hunters shooting too close to their residence.

Fire Log

11/9 Chimney Fire, Montague Rd., Jacques Graton

Fire Department Information

The Fire Chief will have office hours on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm beginning December 16th and on and "on-call" basis. Please call 544-3494 to notify the Chief in advance.

The Fire Station business phone number is 544-3500.

Brush Burning Permit Information

The dates for brush burning permits are January 15 to May 1st. The hours are 10 am - 4 pm.

If you wish to burn **brush only** during this time, please call between the hours of 9 am - 10 am on the day you want to obtain permission. Call the Forest Wardens in the order given:

Harry Williston	544-6951
Delores Williston	544-6951
Penny Priestley	544-2736
Ted Lewis	544-3329
Anne Diemand	544-3806
Everett Ricketts	544-3494
China Huslander	544-3494

Fire Safety Tip

Pull out your clothes dryer; brush away all lint accumulated around motor and housing.

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PRESIDENT

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Flower Essence Counseling C.P.
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Box 64 Wendell Depot, MA 01380

Posting Place

United States Postal Service

Happy New Year! The Postal Service has kicked of its own New Year with even greater emphasis on Customer Service. Here in Wendell, we flew a Giraffe Banner with the words "We'll stretch to give you our very best service".

With the recent snow, and the promise of more to come, attention should be given to your outside mailboxes to insure that your mail will be protected. In October, we held the "Ugliest Mailbox Contest". We thank the large number of self-nominees. This year's winner is Sarah Kohler of Farley Road. Sarah won a new USPS-approved Mailbox with a smiling Pumpkin Face on it. (This was appropriate as her name was selected during the Postmaster's Monthly Coffee Hour on Halloween!)

It is not too early to start to make plans for shipping parcels overseas for delivery in December. Come into the office and we will help you with your personal needs. (As a reminder, please remember to include a second card with names and addresses on them inside your parcels.)

We have a wonderous assortment of mail-related items for sale. These include: pins, T-shirts, games, stamp guides, and Commemorative Albums. If you are looking for a great idea that is both unique and practical, you might consider giving personalized pre-stamped envelopes. We also have contemporary stamps depicting an antique toy train, steamship, race horse and a fire engine, along with a traditional stamp featuring a Madonna holding a child.

On behalf of the U.S. Postal Service; postal employees from Wendell; and the combined staff of the Wendell Post Offices - It is a pleasure to serve you. May you and your loved ones celebrate a Joyoue Holiday Season, and may you have a Happy New Year.

Charles O'Dowd
Candace Hebert
Linda Flanders
Glenn Chicorka
Cheryl Richardson
Anna Hartjens
Ethyl Bardsley
Robin Driscoll
Katrina Chicorka
Susan McQuir

Upcoming Guest Speaker

Sheila Kelly, noted clinical child psychologist, will be the guest speaker Wednésday, January 27th. She'll be discussing various parenting issues and answering questions raised by the audience. The program will take place in the Swift River School library from 7:00-9:00pm. Child care will be available.

MYRON'S No. 1 YAKITORI

Looking for a great gift idea? Consider giving a 10 oz. bottle of that delicious locally made cooking elixir: MYRON'S NO. 1 YAKITORI SAUCE.
Available by the case, 12 bottles for $25.
Unique, local, delicious, and universally appreciated by anyone who likes to eat or cook.
Call Myron at 544-2086 to order.

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR JANUARY

Small Cabin available for the month of January on Farley Road. Free Rent in Exchange for feeding my cats and the birds. If you're looking for a rustic retreat under the pines, and/or simply need a place to stay, give me a call!

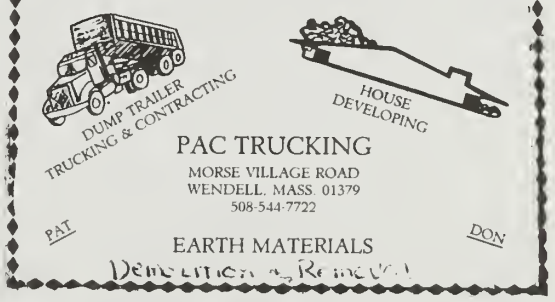
Mary 544-6184

VITAL STATISTICS

8/14/92 Hannah Joy Kohler-Smallidge born to Sarah Marie Kohler and Mark Owen Smallidge in Greenfield.

8/22/92 Tanner Scott Soos born to Louanne and Frank Soos in Northampton.

9/10/92 Dana Marie Stowell born to Veronica Ann and Philip Edward Stowell in Greenfield.



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John "Klondike" Koehler

Athol Memorial Hospital
A community hospital serving the North Quabbin Region.
Here's what we have to offer:
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- 24-hour-a-day emergency room coverage with a physician on site.
- X-ray, CAT scanning, nuclear medicine and low-dose radiation mammography equipment for breast imaging (certified by American College of Radiology).
- Modern operating room, including one-day surgery program.
- New Breast Health Program coordinated by Cyrus Vakili, MD.
- Up-to-date laboratory and blood bank.
- Physical therapy and respiratory therapy.
- Community Weight Control group and patient consultations with dietitian.
- Medical social service department.
- Community Health Service, our hospital's own home health agency offering skilled nursing, physical therapy, social service, and home health aides plus education and screening programs.
- Outpatient clinics in more than a dozen specialties.
- Occupational health program to help employers and employees with government requirements, including testing and inoculations.
- Lifeline personal emergency response system.
- Cancer, Alzheimer's Disease/ Caretakers, Diabetes, Bereavement and Better Breathers Club free support groups.
- Gift shop operated by hospital Auxiliary.
- Accredited by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations and licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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In Memory of Doug Johnson

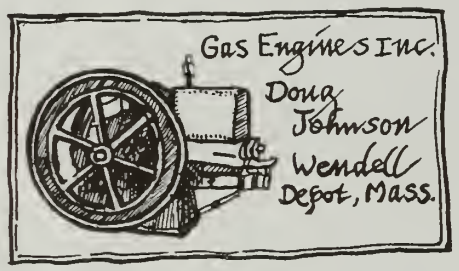
My father went to his GOD not too long ago. I miss him as do alot of other people. I know his spirit is at peace. I think of him often. The wonderful life he had and how he held on to the end, even in his suffering. He worked hard all his life and raised a good family. Master mechanic as his trade, his love for restoring old gas engines was his joy within himself to go out to the barn and tinker around with those old clunkers. Starting with basically a piece of rust, sand ing, adjusting parts, oiling and finally painting to perfection, this old enging would become a piece of beauty. For my father as well as the passers by that would stop to see the green (a bernique) running smoothly and popping a tin can off its spout into the air every time the engine turned its 10 or 12 rotations. The higher the can rose in the air, the bigger the smile on my dad's face, as well as his spectators and especially us kids, because we knew what a great dad we had.

His passing brought back many childhood memories and the sincere appreciation of life in general. I guess we all experience these feelings in the death of a loved one. I want to thank you for all the things you have given me in my life Dad. To view simple assorted things on this earth, and realize they are a thing of beauty; the smell of the ocean, the color and design of the shells upon its shore, the feather of a bird that you happen to come across while strolling through the October woods having its own vibrant tone and texture, a large mushroom with a white face that you bring home to engrave upon, to see the ice on the branches of trees in the sunshine in the winter, to swim underwater and feel the serenity, silence, and peace, to plant a garden and watch it grow knowing that the canner is out in the back room waiting for use, the companionship of a good friend, the gift of a grandfather, watching a baby being born (my sister's baby Stormie), just to know that you can sit down in your own place and write something like this is a pleasure, freedom of speech. Walking on any backroad in any season, you feel the presence of GOD and nature all around you. The warmth of the wood stove, the smell stays on you but it grows on you too. There are many emotions concerning being alive in general. Imagine how many city kids never get the chance to hop rocks in the brook as I frequently did when I was growing up. Their joy of a summer cool off was opening a fire hydrant. How lucky we are--think of it! I built treehouses and went pineneedle sliding on cardboard boxes, whooping and laughing all the way down the hill holding on to the cardboard as tight as I could. In the winter, my uncle Don would make sliding trails with the Ski Doo. They would almost turn out like bobsled tracks, especially after a cold sleet. Us neighborhood kids would pile onto our ten foot toboggan, and of course I was always the one elected to steer. We would get going at the top of the old back road slowly, but picking up speed where we would all get nervous because we would be flying at an extreme pace. The toboggan (with about 6 or 8 of us on it), all screaming and enjoying the danger of it all would fly off the jumps that we made before hand. Bump off from tree stumps and finally go sideways until we crashed. Bedazzeled and bruised, but still willing for more.

A childhood is easy to remember, but hard to put in writing. There are so many experiences to express. What person could write down every detail of their life. I have been blessed with a good one. My mom and dad are still with me, one on Earth, one in Heaven. I love them both.

Take care, and thanks for the memories.

Becky Johnson



Swift River PTCA News

The Swift River PTCA has been quietly active this school year. So far we have sponsored the Swift River Fall Fest, organized Classroom Coordinators, produced a new and improved Swift River School Student Telephone Directory, sponsored a Home-School Connection evening with Jane Baltren and Joy Brenneman, teachers at Swift River School, sharing their ideas with parents.

At the November General Meeting a new Executive Board, which governs the PTCA, was appointed. The following people will serve for the Dec '92-Nov '93 year: Lisa Finestone, Beth Haggerty, Bette Richard, Kathy White, Debbie Puchalski and Molly Kaynor.

Ideas that the PTCA will be working on for the rest of the school year include researching the possibility of hosting Afterschool Programs; continued work on the Volunteer Program, a Spring fundraiser, "Common Cents" and Field Day.

We are a continually growing and changing group and are excited about the impact we have on our school. Any involvement by community members is welcome, please contact one of the above board members or the school at 544-6926.

SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL T-SHIRTS

We have children and adult T-shirts in Jade Green for $5.00. We also have a few sweatshirts left (call for sizes and cost). To order please call Debbie at 544-6926.

Roots and Branches

The Wendell affinity group, Roots and Branches, will vigil for the fourth time at the home of Betsy Corner, Randy Kehler, and their daughter, Lilian, from December 17 - 24.

The vigil, which recently commemorated its 1st anniversary, continues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Over 300 people from across the United States have trekked to Colrain to affirm by their presence that it is wrong to confiscate people's homes to pay for war. If you would like to participate in support of this ongoing struggle for justice, please contact Stephen Broll, 544-3223 or Rose Heidkamp, 544-8457.

Also, Stephen Broll will be tried on January 29th in Greenfield District Court for roofing Randy and Betsy's house on July 11th. He was arrested for trespassing and malicious destruction of property. For further information, contact Stephen.

Stephen Broll

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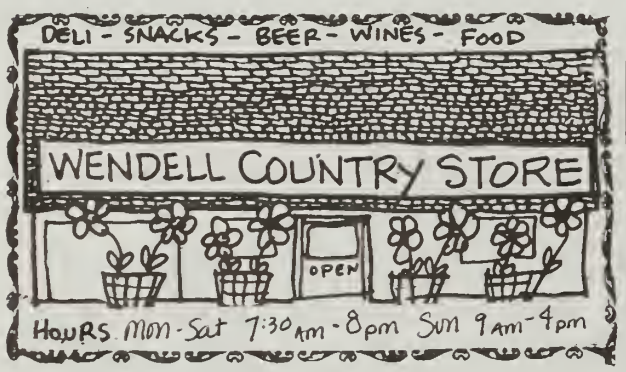

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The Nature of Wendell

" The recent tracks of the fox or otter in the yard remind us that each hour of the night is crowded with events and the primeval nature is still working and making tracks in the snow."

Thoreau

When we speak of the community of Wendell we almost always are referring to the people in town. However, there are many inhabitants with which we share the land and except for occasional glimpses, they live their lives unseen to us. In winter the movements and habits of these neighbors is revealed in the tracks they leave in the snow.

One of the common tracks is made by the red fox. There are two species of fox, the red and the gray, that live in Wendell. The red prefers a mixture of open and wooded land and the less common gray fox remains mostly in deeper woods. The gray is also a climber taking to trees and walking along fallen logs more readily.

The track of the fox looks like a small dog track with four toe pads and a larger heel pad. It differs from a bobcat track (which I have seen in Wendell) in that it generally shows toe nails and is less rounded.

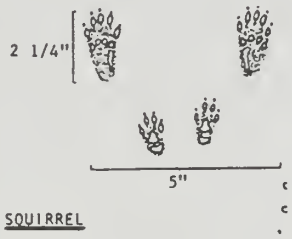
The fox walks very deliberately with each back foot stepping into the track made by the front foot. Unlike a domestic dog which zig-zags all over the place the fox also walks in a relatively straight path for long distances with few wasted steps. The dog has a warm house and a bowl of food waiting for it, whereas the fox uses these habits to help it move quietly while hunting and allow it to conserve precious heat on cold winter nights. In fact, dogs that are allowed to run free in winter can take a toll on the local wildlife by chasing them needlessly and causing them to deplete their energy reserves.

Other tracks commonly seen in Wendell include deer, squirrel porcupine, snowshoe hare, coyote and mice.

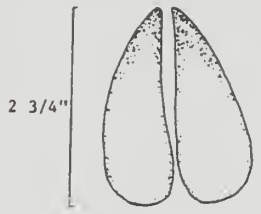
The many tracks I see on even a short winter walk always reminds me of the wildlife I share the land with. They hold no deeds and have little regard for human property boundaries. Nor should they, for their right to the land goes far beyond our purchase or rental. For thousands of years their ancestors have interwoven themselves into the fabric of life in the fields and forests of Wendell. And we come along, mere decades ago, and claim we "own" the land.

Bill Lafley

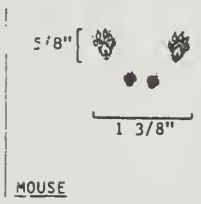
PORCUPINE



SQUIRREL



DEER
(white-tailed deer)



MOUSE

RABBIT, HARE

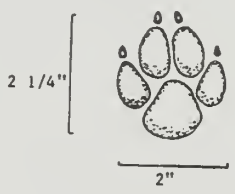
OUR COVER

This September a mother and baby porcupine took up residence near my house on Bear Mountain Rd. At first they grazed on clover, but since it's snowed, they keep a discreet distance from the house.

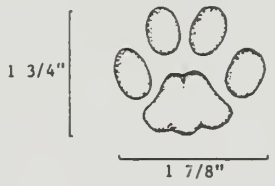
I've lived in Wendell for 2 years. I'm primarily a painter with occaisional illustration work. My latest project was illustrating a field guide to animal tracks and sign titled, Tracking and the Art of Seeing, by Paul Rezendes.

My work is available for barter, and I'm always interested in meeting other artists.

Heather Lenz



DOG FAMILY
(dog, fox, coyote)



CAT FAMILY
(cat, bobcat, lynx)

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New Titles at the Library

Adult Fiction:
Linden Hills, Gloria Naylor
Night Over Water, Ken Follett
Maybe the Moon, Aemistead Maupin
Mostly Harmless, Douglas Adams
Griffin and Sabine, Bantock
Sabine's Notebook, Bantock
Possession - The Secret of Joy,
Alice Walker
A Tale of the Body Thief,
Anne Rice
Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man,
Fannie Flagg
A River Runs Through It,
Norman Maclean

Adult Non-Fiction:
Every Living Thing,
James Herriot
Earth in the Balance, Al Gore
Loving and Leaving the Good Life
Helen Nearing
Easy to Make Endangered Species to Stitch and Stuff,
Jodie Davis
The Harmony Guide to Knitting Techniques and Stitches,
Debra Mount-Ford
Glorious Knits, Kaffe Fassett
Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior,
Judith Martin
Rise up Singing: The Group Singing Songbook
Bed and Breakfast in New England
Maus and Maus II, Art Spiegelman

Note: If the title you want is circulating, you may ask to have it put on reserve.

In an effort to better serve the community, the Wendell Free Library has begun purchasing a limited number of current best-sellers in hardcover. Previously our policy was to wait on purchase until books came out in paperback editions, thus allowing our book budget to stretch further. This often means a year wait after initial publication which is fine for most fiction and non-fiction; but for the best-sellers, it is **not** when people want to read them.

Obviously the amount we can spend on hardcover editions will be limited. However, you can assist our efforts to provide a range of current best-sellers by donating or loaning **your** best-sellers to us while they are still "hot." We'll keep them circulating in the community.

Also, does anybody get the Sunday New York Times? We'd love to have the book review section from it each week. Or how about the New York Review of Books, the separate publication?

As always, we never turn down any volunteer help. It's an important part of what keeps our library ticking. It seems everybody understands we are trying to provide meaningful library services on a limited budget and is finding little and big ways to pitch in. Many thanks to all of you. See you in the Library.

Rosie Heidkamp

Brighter Road - A Journey of Miracles

by
Julia Borrough

"One of the most courageous and powerful recordings ever by an area artist", says David Sokol of the "Valley Advocate".

Its a recording of 12 original songs touching on themes of spirituality, recovery, love, a Higher Power, fully produced, featuring local artists Joe Podlesny, Karen Copeland, Justina and Joyce, Annie Hassett, Roger Tincknell, Flo Newman and Kerry Blount.

Available at local record and book stores, and Angel Cake Music, PO Box 6, Greenfield, Ma. 01302, and by Lady Slipper, Inc. Box 3124-R Durham, N.Carolina.

The music is pleasurable to listen to and also inspiring. Julia feels it is the most musical and finest recording she has done. A thoughtful gift now and anytime!

No grousing!
Just Best Wishes
for a
Healthy, Happy
New Year!

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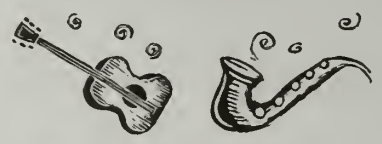
UPCOMING EVENTS 1992-93

January 9
PAUL GEREMIA



- Open Mike at 7:30
- Dessert-O-Rama
- Always a Benefit!
- Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts

The November Full Moon Coffeehouse was an evening filled with good music and neighborly feelings. The music featured The Billy's, an unusual duo from North Carolina, playing what they call "Foraged Folk Music." They are two guys named Bill, and they perform on a variety of scavenged musical instruments. For most of the night, each performer drummed on empty 5 gallon plastic spring water bottles which were lashed together and harnessed around their waists. I had my doubts at first; I thought to myself, "It could be a rather long evening." Their first song quickly dispelled that notion. The harmonies were tight; the rhythms were accessible; and the lyrics, poignant and relevant. The Billy's have a varied repertoire; their songs are about the environment, about relationships, and about music itself. The use of guitar added a welcome break from the purely rhythmic numbers, but the rhythms carried the night. This writer was very pleasantly surprized.

Don't miss Paul Geremia on January 9th!

by Matt Stamell

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